

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1. (currently amended)

A sound-insulating floor covering, in particular for motor vehicles, comprising a carpet layer (2) which on the underside comprises a base substrate (3), and a sub-layer (8, 9) which is bonded to the underside of the carpet layer by means of a hot-melt adhesive (5, 6) applied in multiple stages,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein

directly to the base substrate of the carpet layer (2) a hot-melt adhesive (5) is applied which has an average mass flow rate of the melt ranging from 190 to 210 g/10 min and has a lower melting point than a hot-melt adhesive (6) which is applied in a subsequent stage and which has an average mass flow rate of the melt ranging from 140 to 160 g/10 min.

Claim 2. (currently amended)

The floor covering according to claim 1,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein

the hot-melt adhesive (5) which is applied directly to the base substrate (3) of the carpet layer (2) is applied at a lower mass per unit area than the hot-melt adhesive (6) which is applied in the subsequent stage.

Claim 3. (currently amended)

The floor covering according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein

at least one of the hot-melt adhesives (5, 6) comprises mineral microbodies and/or hollow mineral microbodies (7).

Claim 4. (currently amended)

The floor covering according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein  
the hot-melt adhesive (6) which is applied in the subsequent stage comprises mineral microbodies and/or hollow mineral microbodies (7).

Claim 5. (currently amended)

The floor covering according to claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein  
the base substrate (3) is a woven fabric, knitted fabric or nonwoven fabric, wherein the hot-melt adhesive (5) which is applied directly to the base substrate (3), and the hot-melt adhesive (6) which is applied in the subsequent stage form an adhesive layer which comprises a multitude of gaps (16) which define fluid-permeable passages.

Claim 6. (currently amended)

The floor covering according to claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein  
the sub-layer comprises a layer of nonwoven fibre fabric (8) and/or a heavy layer (9).

Claim 7. (currently amended)

The floor covering according to claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein  
the hot-melt adhesive (6) which is applied in the subsequent stage comprises one or several crosslinking additives.

Claim 8. (currently amended)

The floor covering according to claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 to 7,~~

~~characterized in that~~ wherein

the hot-melt adhesive (6) which is applied in the subsequent stage comprises a flame retardant.

Claim 9. (currently amended)

The floor covering according to claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 to 8,~~

~~characterized in that~~ wherein

the hot-melt adhesive (6) which is applied in the subsequent stage comprises particles which expand under the effect of heat.

Claim 10. (currently amended)

A method for producing a floor covering according to claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 to 9,~~ in which in several stages hot-melt adhesive (5, 6) is applied to the backing of a carpet layer (2) which on the underside comprises a textile base layer (3), and a sound-insulating sub-layer (8, 9) is applied to the hot-melt adhesive,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein

a hot-melt adhesive (5) is applied directly to the base layer (3) of the carpet layer (2), which hot-melt adhesive (5) has an average mass flow rate of the melt ranging from 190 to 210 g/10 min, and a lower melting point than a hot-melt adhesive (6) which is applied in a subsequent stage and which has an average mass flow rate of the melt ranging from 140 to 160 g/10 min.

Claim 11. (currently amended)

The method according to claim 10,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein

the hot-melt adhesive (5) which is applied in the first

stage is applied at a lower mass per unit area than the hot-melt adhesive (6) which is applied in the subsequent stage.

Claim 12. (currently amended)

The method according to claim 10 ~~or 11~~,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein

the hot-melt adhesive (5) which is applied directly to the base layer (3) of the carpet layer (2) and the hot-melt adhesive (6) which is applied in the subsequent stage are each scattered-on in the form of powdered hot-melt adhesive, and are melted-on prior to the application of the sound-absorbent sub-layer, either together or spaced apart in time.

Claim 13. (currently amended)

The method according to claim 10, ~~any one of claims 10 to 12~~,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein

mineral microbodies and/or hollow mineral microbodies (7) are added to the hot-melt adhesive (6) which is applied in the subsequent stage.

Claim 14. (currently amended)

The method according to claim 10, ~~any one of claims 10 to 13~~,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein

a woven fabric, knitted fabric or nonwoven fabric is used as the base substrate (3), and the hot-melt adhesive (5) which is applied directly to the base substrate (3) of the carpet layer (2) and the hot-melt adhesive (6) which is applied in the subsequent stage are applied such that after solidification of the hot-melt adhesives (5, 6) an adhesive layer is formed which comprises a multitude of gaps which define fluid-permeable passages.

Claim 15. (currently amended)

The method according to claim 10, ~~any one of claims 10 to 14,~~

~~characterized in that~~ wherein

a layer of nonwoven fibre fabric (8) and/or a heavy layer (9) are/is applied as a sound-absorbent sub-layer.

Claim 16. (currently amended)

The method according to claim 10, ~~any one of claims 10 to 15,~~

~~characterized in that~~ wherein

a crosslinking additive is added to the hot-melt adhesive (6) which is applied in the subsequent stage.

Claim 17. (currently amended)

The method according to claim 10, ~~any one of claims 10 to 16,~~

~~characterized in that~~ wherein

a flame retardant is added to the hot-melt adhesive (6) which is applied in the subsequent stage.

Claim 18. (currently amended)

The method according to claim 10, ~~any one of claims 10 to 17,~~

~~characterized in that~~ wherein

particles which expand under the effect of heat are added to the hot-melt adhesive (6) which is applied in the subsequent stage.